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Illustrations of the Siege
of Boston.

By Richard Frothingham.

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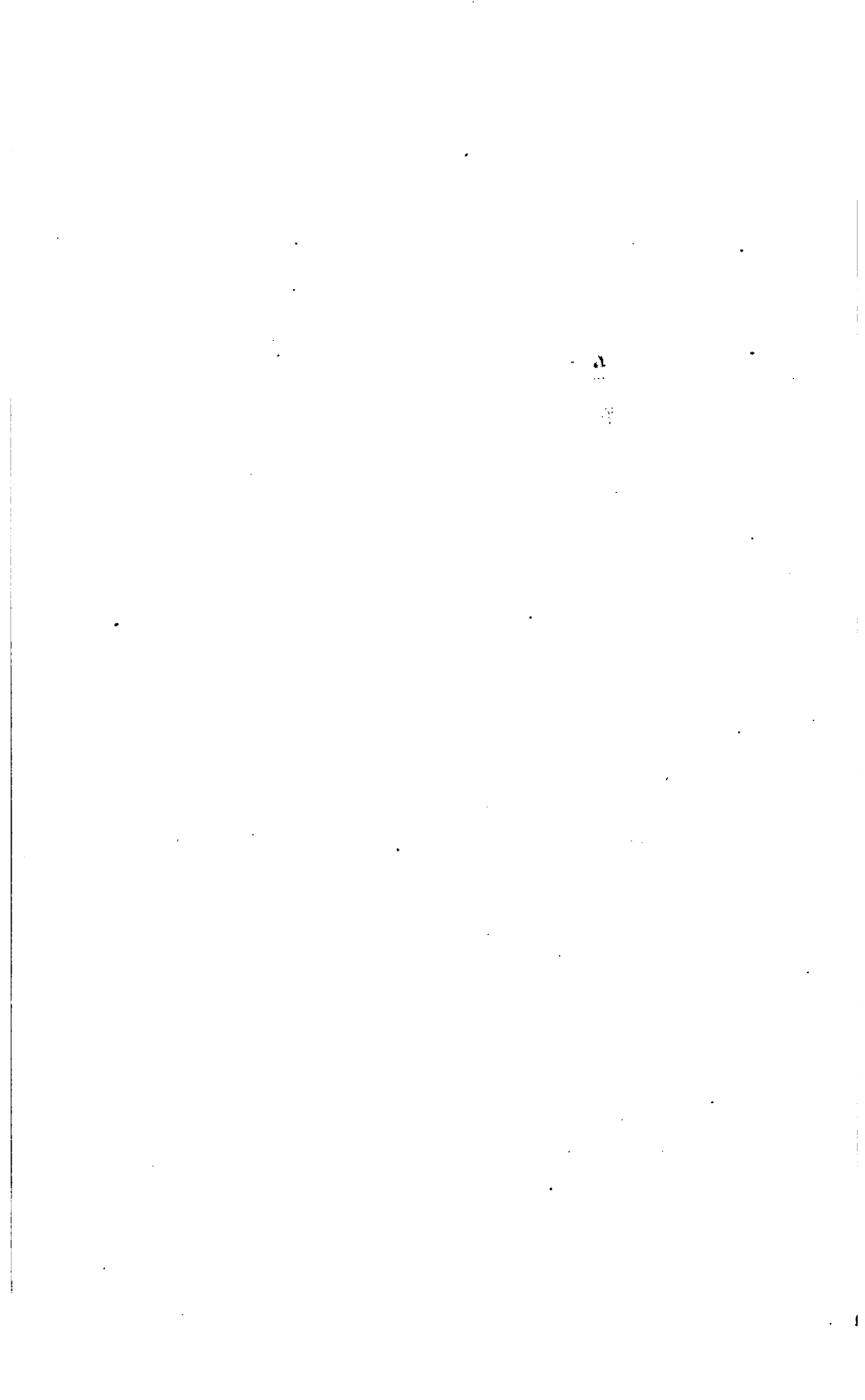
ILLUSTRATIONS
OF THE
SIEGE OF BOSTON.

FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, MARCH 16, 1876.

BY
RICHARD FROTHINGHAM.

Privately Printed.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF JOHN WILSON AND SON.
1876.



SIEGE OF BOSTON.

SINCE the publication (1849) of the "History of the Siege of Boston," I have kept an eye on the appearance of new matter relative to the events of this period, and have largely increased my collections from contemporary authorities. I purpose to select from this mass a few salient things to serve as my contribution to this interesting occasion. They will show the spirit of the time.

It was a saying of Cardinal De Retz, that parties never go so far as when they know not where they are going. This was the case with the popular party in this country a few years before the beginning of the siege of Boston. It was ever professing loyalty, and it was as constantly repelling as calumny the charge of aiming at independence; and yet, by attaining to united effort and the habit of obedience to the regularly collected will of the majority, it unconsciously was led far towards that national power which it was in the design of Providence should arise in America. Indeed, the spirit of American nationality may be said to have been in the air. It was the burden of many a prophecy. Thus Ezra Stiles, pondering (1774) "on that Saxon genius of liberty and law which English America inherits from the parent State," predicted that the Union would produce "a Runnemede in America." An American, Gulian Verplanck, on a visit to England during this period, sang:—

"Hail, happy Brittan, Freedom's blest retreat!
Great is thy power, thy wealth, thy glory great,
But wealth and power have no immortal day,
For all things ripen only to decay:
And when that time arrives—the lot of all—
When Britian's glory, power and wealth shall fall
Then shall thy sons by Fate's unchanged decree
*In other worlds another Briton see,
And what thou art America shall be.*"

This sentiment of union imbues the varied action elicited by the penal acts closing the port of Boston, and altering the government of Massachusetts. It was expressed in the remarkable correspondence, revealing the very heart of the Revolution, between the local committees of the Colonies, as they sent their generous donations for the relief of the sufferers, and the grateful replies of the Boston committee. There is no record more authentic or beautiful or suggestive connected with the formative process of the country. It was printed for the first time by this Society (Fourth Series of "Collections," 4th volume, 1858). It presents a life-like picture of the time. It shows, that, below conflicting interests and old feuds, there was ever a spirit of brotherhood, a hearty sympathy, a common faith in political ideas, and one distinct aim. While this interchange of sentiment was going on, there was sterner work in progress. "Our brethren," the "Essex Gazette" of Dec. 20, 1774, says, "of New Hampshire and Rhode Island, have signalized themselves in a manner that does them the greatest honor; and it is with pleasure we can add, that the Colony of Connecticut merit our highest regards for their present assiduity and vigilance in disciplining their militia, which consists of near thirty regiments. . . . Indeed, the whole United Colonies are extremely active and zealous in the common cause, all nobly exerting themselves for carrying into execution the measures agreed upon by the late Continental Congress, — excepting a few disappointed, factious Tories."

The preparation for a great crisis had been so efficient by political and military organization, that the events of the 19th of April, 1775, called the militia round Boston in such numbers as to place a well-appointed body of British veterans in a state of siege. "All America," a British journal said, "is now rising, and the universal cry is, 'To-arms, to-arms!'" The seat of empire seems already dedicated for the Western World. Happy Britons, if they shall owe the merit of their liberty to the success of their American brethren."

The militia, however imperfect in their organization, still gathered under the shield of American law. This law was embodied in the association of the Congress of 1774. Here is the copy that was printed in Boston on a broadside, on its reception here, with the names of the signers. In this shape the instrument was discussed in every town or county or district in the thirteen Colonies; and, very generally, was adopted. Thus it faithfully bore the "sovereign States' collected will." It authorized the government by committees

and congresses which lasted until the adoption of the Articles of the Confederation.

The public papers and private letters of the times bear witness that this government was as much respected as any laws. The newspapers now (December, 1774) begin to have advertisements of the sales at public auction of portions of cargoes, "agreeable to the American Congress Association."

The adoption of this army by the General Congress was a foregone conclusion. For this body, in October, approved of the opposition of the people of Massachusetts to the Regulation Act, and declared, that, if it was attempted to be executed by force, all America ought to rally to their support; and this pledge had been reiterated for months in the action of towns, counties, and conventions, and especially in the fiery letters which the local committees sent to Boston. The administration was endeavoring to execute this law by force. This had been met by force, and in a manner that met the entire approval of the Whigs throughout the Colonies. There was no thought, in Congress or in the people, of falling back on these pledges.

But the paramount event of the siege was the appearance in the army of Washington as the commander-in-chief. To what does the country owe this noble appointment? How were the hearts and the minds of the people of the thirteen Colonies drawn towards this great American to such a degree that they unanimously put their lives and their liberties in his hands?

Though only forty-three, Washington had been before the public nearly a quarter of a century. The "Journey of Major Washington" to the Ohio country (1753), at the age of twenty, made his courage and his resources known throughout America and Europe. His Diary was printed widely in the journals. To this succeeded the well-known military service at the Great Meadows and on the Braddock field. Even the criticism which this service elicited in European journals had the effect to make him known. This also was the effect of a letter addressed to his brother that got into the "London Magazine" in 1754, in which he says, "I heard the bullets whistle; and believe me there is something charming in the sound." He was next appointed a lieutenant-colonel in the Virginia forces. In this capacity he engaged in a wide sphere of duty in meeting the Indians on the frontiers of Virginia, and was eminently successful in this arduous and difficult task.

A question of rank required a consultation with General Shirley in Boston. Washington, leaving his command with

Colonel Stephen, set out on horseback in company with Captain Mercer, and Captain Stewart (who was with General Braddock when he died), on a journey of five hundred miles in the dead of winter. His arrival at Philadelphia and New York was noticed in the press.* In Boston he was announced in the following way: "Last Friday came to this town, from Virginia, the Hon. Colonel Washington, a gentleman who has deservedly a high reputation for military skill, integrity, and valor; though success has not always attended his undertakings" (Boston, March 1, 1756). His sojourn in all these places was marked by every attention.

His mission was a partial success. He returned to Winchester. This year he was ordered to proclaim the declaration of war against France. He read this at several points in this place, and then addressed his command in the following terms: —

"You see, gentlemen soldiers, that it has pleased our most gracious sovereign to declare war in form against the French king, and (for divers good causes, but more particularly for their ambitious usurpations and encroachments on his American dominions) to pronounce all the said French king's subjects and vassals to be enemies to his crown and dignity; and hath willed and required all his subjects and people, and in a more especial manner commanded his captain-general of his forces, his governors, and all other his commanders and officers, to do and execute all acts of hostility in the prosecution of this just and honorable war. And though our utmost endeavors can contribute but little to the advancement of his Majesty's honor and the interest of his governments, yet let us show our willing obedience to the best of kings, and, by a strict attachment to his royal commands, demonstrate the love and loyalty we bear to his sacred person; let us, by rules of unerring bravery, strive to merit his royal favor, and a better establishment as a reward for our services."

Here is seen that loyalty to the crown which long animated Washington. This speech, though in the newspapers, cannot be found in the biographies of Marshall, Ramsay, Sparks, or Irving.

On the conclusion of the war, Washington resigned (1759) his commission, and retired to Mount Vernon. He was soon

* "New York, Feb. 23, 1756. — Last Friday, Colonel Washington left this city for Boston; there, 'tis thought, to consult with General Shirley. Measures proper to be taken with the several tribes of Indians to the southward, and particularly the Cherokees, some hundreds of whom, from the back parts of the two Carolinas, it is reported, have assured the western governments of their coming in, and firmly adhering to the interests of the English, in opposition to the French."

"New York, March 15. — Colonel Washington returned hither from Boston on Tuesday last, on his way home to Virginia."

elected a member of the House of Burgesses. Though alive to the aggressions of the British administration on the customs and rights of the Colonies, he was engaged in no action, even in the times of the Stamp Act, that brought his name before all the Colonies.

The Townshend revenue acts (1767) elicited the non-importation scheme as a peaceable means to obtain their entire repeal. The whole country became occupied with this measure. It fairly engrossed the public mind. Colonies that did not come into it—as Rhode Island—were termed plague-spots. Individuals who violated it were roughly treated. The Burgesses now (1769) passed their memorable resolves. For this the royal governor, Lord Botetourt, dissolved them.

Washington, still a member, had brought a paper providing for a non-importation agreement for Virginia, which he intended to move in the House. He, with the patriots, now repaired to the residence of Anthony Hay. Here they chose Peyton Randolph their moderator; matured a non-importation agreement for Virginia, and his signature to it is the seventh on the list. This paper was copied into the newspapers of the other Colonies, with the signers' names. It is in the "Pennsylvania Chronicle" of June 6, 1769. These proceedings were hailed with joy by the popular party throughout the Colonies. Thus the name of Washington was brought before the people, at a critical period, in connection with a vital political measure.

Five years later, the popular excitement was driven to a high pitch by the penal measures of the Boston Port Act and the Regulating Act. Every cheek glowed with resentment, and every tongue was a flame of fire. This was the case in all the towns and counties in the thirteen Colonies. All eyes were now on public men. The freeholders of Fairfax County met (July 18, 1774) in Alexandria, devised means to aid the sufferers in Boston, and urged the people of Massachusetts to resist the obnoxious Regulating Act; but, if they should submit to this act, the citizens of Fairfax County would not hold the decision binding on them, but would inviolably adhere to such measures as the General Congress should devise for the preservation of their lives and liberties. The head-line over this great action has, in large capitals, the name of GEORGE WASHINGTON, *Esquire*, as the chairman. Here was the boldest of political action. It could hardly have failed to draw attention to, and to have fixed it upon, the soldier already so distinguished in the history of the Colonies.

At this period the newspapers copied an extract from a

sermon by Rev. Samuel Davis, preached Aug. 17, 1755, and soon after printed. In this patriotic utterance he referred to "that heroic youth, Colonel Washington, whom I cannot but hope Providence has hitherto preserved in so signal a manner for some important service to his country."

Washington was one of the burgesses who called a convention of all the counties of Virginia to meet at Williamsburgh on the 1st of August; and he was a delegate to it from Fairfax County. He presented the resolutions adopted by it on the 18th ult., and is said "to have spoken in support of them in a strain of uncommon eloquence." He said, "I will raise one thousand men, subsist them at my own expense, and march myself at their head for the relief of Boston." Though this was not printed, it was freely circulated, and is in the Diary of John Adams.

Washington was a member of the Congress of 1774. His service and standing in this body are fully related in the biographies of him. In order to be prepared for the last appeal, they recommended the Colonies to arm. Hence the citizens of Fairfax County, COLONEL GEORGE WASHINGTON in the chair, voted (Feb. 2, 1775) to enrol their militia, and to pay a tax of three shillings per poll to defray the expense for the purchase of arms, &c. They voted that the militia use their utmost endeavors to make themselves masters of "the militia exercise, as recommended by the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts Bay on the 29th of October last." These proceedings were in the newspapers ("Essex Gazette," March 7, 1775).

Washington was brought to the notice of the popular leaders of Massachusetts in a peculiar manner. The committee who received the donations that were pouring in for the relief of the sufferers by the Port Act had on it men now of world-wide renown. They usually held their sessions in Faneuil Hall. It is not difficult to imagine the admiration that must have been elicited by the following words, in a letter dated Dec. 22, 1774, that, with a generous contribution, came from James County, Va.:—

"You may depend the Virginians are unanimous, steady, and firm to the cause they have embarked in, and will struggle hard for the prize now contending for. I have this very day heard, that, in that tract of Virginia called the Northern Neck, . . . they have lately raised one thousand volunteers, as fine fellows and good woodsmen as any on our continent, who have put themselves under the command of Colonel George Washington, a brave and experienced officer, who, it is said, has undertaken to command them; and that they are soon to march for your place."

This company was one of the independent companies of Virginia, who now put themselves under the direction of Washington as their field-officer. He reviewed them, and instructed them in the military discipline. The Earl of Dunmore says (Dec. 24, 1774),—

“The association . . . adopted by what is called the Continental Congress are now enforcing throughout this country with the greatest rigor. A committee has been chosen in every county, whose business it is to carry the association of the Congress into execution. . . . Every county besides is now arming a company of men, whom they call an independent company, for the avowed purpose of protecting their committees, and to be employed against government if occasion require.”

The Whigs of Virginia said that they “acknowledged no other code but that laid down by Congress.” This was the work in which Washington was engaged this spring. He was often called from Mount Vernon to attend the field-parades of these companies.

At the age of forty-three Washington had a rare record. It was that of the military experience in the old French war; it was that of manly and bold political service, at critical seasons, in the controversy between the Colonies and the mother-country; and he was now in the field, substantially as the commander of the Virginia militia, sustaining the association of the Congress. All this revealed the man. Thus, in a time of unparalleled high-toned action, a people, by this revelation of sterling qualities, had their minds and hearts drawn towards him as their military leader. For this position “he almost unconsciously nominated himself” (Proceedings of Mass. Hist. Soc., June, 1858).

Washington attended the Congress on the 10th of May, 1775, in uniform. His utterances and his private letters show how fixed was his determination to embark his fortune and life in the cause. The contemporary notices of him by his fellow-members show the hold he had on those who saw him act. Yet I have not met in the newspapers, or even in private letters, down to this time, a suggestion that he was the proper person to be selected as the commander. There are a few words to this effect in a letter of May 7, 1775, from James Warren of Massachusetts,—a wish expressed to see him in the army. Another letter, of June 4, 1775, written by Elbridge Gerry, addressed to one of the delegates of Massachusetts in Congress, is more explicit. It says,—

“I should heartily rejoice to see this way the beloved Colonel Washington, and do not doubt the New-England generals would acquiesce

in showing to our sister colony Virginia the respect which she has before experienced from the continent in making him generalissimo. This is a matter in which Dr. Warren agrees with me, and we had intended to write you jointly on the affair."

Warren was one of the Donation Committee of Boston; and the letter already cited could not but have excited his generous nature. Such a letter, if it did not get into print, must have been known widely by the popular leaders.

The next contemporary suggestion is found in a letter of June 14, 1775, by a Virginia delegate in the Continental Congress, who wrote,—

"Colonel Washington has been pressed to take the supreme command of the American troops encamped at Roxbury, and I believe will accept the appointment, though with much reluctance, he being deeply impressed with the importance of that honorable trust, and diffident of his own (superior) abilities."

Before this, John Adams expressed undoubtedly the general conviction in and out of Congress, in the debate on the adoption of the army.

"I had," he said, "but one gentleman in my mind for that important command; and that was a gentleman from Virginia, who was among us, and very well known to all of us,—a gentleman whose skill and experience as an officer, whose independent fortune, great talents, and excellent universal character, would command the approbation of America, and unite the cordial exertions of all the Colonies better than any other person in the Union."

It is not easy to see how more appreciative words could have been spoken as to the character of Washington.

On the 15th of June, Thomas Johnson of Maryland moved in Congress, "that a general be appointed to command all the continental forces raised or to be raised for the defence of American liberty." John Adams seconded the motion. Then, on balloting, "George Washington, Esq., was unanimously elected." The next day (June 15, 1775), Silas Deane, a member of Congress, writes that "he was elected to that high office by the unanimous voice of all America." Dr. Ramsay (*History*, i. 216) says that the appointment "was accompanied by no competition, and followed by no envy. The same general impulse on the public mind which led the colonists to agree in many other particulars pointed to Washington" as the most proper person for that place. This would seem to be the simple truth as to this great appointment.

Washington stood under the venerable elm in Cambridge

on the 3d of July as the commander-in-chief, by virtue of a power which had been felt before the Congress, — a sentiment of union, or of country, or of American nationality. The popular party had come to this, although only a few of their far-sighted leaders saw it, — Washington now “abhorring the idea of independence.” This sentiment was a growth. It had its roots in the idea and principles which the people of the several Colonies had embodied in their institutions. It was through these, or under the legal forms which they provided, that they had chosen their local assemblies, and had formed a general Congress. This was universally recognized as the head of the American cause, and this body had invited Washington with authority as their representative. This formed a solid basis for law and order. It was a guaranty, not merely of the successful issue of the siege, but of the final triumph of the republic.

It is not my intention to follow the events of the siege, but only to give a few items that may illustrate the times. All the authorities here cited were not known to me at the time of the publication of “The Siege of Boston.”

The course of Washington rendered the situation of the British troops more and more uncomfortable. On the 8th of August, General Putnam sent to the British camp the following note : —

“General Putnam’s compliments to his old friend Major Moncrieffe. Is sorry he could not sooner send him some of the comforts of life. He now sends him (through the hands of Major Bruce) some mutton, beef, and fresh butter, which he begs his acceptance of, with a hearty welcome.”

The major’s answer : —

“Major Moncrieffe’s compliments to Colonel Putnam. Is much obliged to him for his attention, but begs, with respect to him, he would not put himself to the least inconvenience for the future. He is in a very good mess, and would not wish to be distinguished from his brother-officers. He obeyed his commands with respect to Mr. Simpson, whom he has not the pleasure of being acquainted with. The beef was delivered to the other prisoners, Phelps being dead. Humanity will always direct him to receive and forward any thing for their use ; and, if we abounded ourselves, they would have their share.”

In August the troops and the Tories cut down the famous Liberty Tree. The Tory view is seen in a soliloquy of the tree as they were cutting it down. It is copied from the “Massachusetts Gazette and Boston Weekly News-Letter” for Jan. 22, 1776. Some of the lines cannot be made out.

*The Soliloquy of the Boston Tree of Liberty, as they were cutting it down,
1776.*

And must I die? — but why complain?
Complaints and murmurings are in vain:
'Tis but the lot of beast and man,
And die we must do what we can.

My ancestors for centuries stood,
The pride and honor of the wood;
A royal race, a chosen band,
The ornaments of *Shawmut** land:
For centuries they yearly shed
The leafy honors of their head;
At each returning spring reviv'd
Their wonted vigor, grew and thriv'd:
Of wintry blasts they stood the shock,
The tempests, as they rag'd, they'd mock;
The rude attacks of winds which blew
They fac'd them all, and healthier grew.
Th' uncultur'd Indian, nature's care,
Did often to their shades repair
Himself to cool and to refresh,
Regaling on the fish and flesh
Which nature generously gave.
Free from the cheat of cultur'd knave,
Here he enjoy'd his simple fare,
Enjoy'd his sleep, unpress'd by care,
'Till *European* strangers came
With stealth, and robb'd him of his game;
He hunted beasts, they hunted men,
He fled and ne'er return'd again.

How happy is the *Indian's* lot!
Few cares he knows, *they* soon forgot:
No Av'rice with her griping paw,
No worries from the dogs of law;
In friendship, such as nature grants,
He lives, and very few his wants,
Grateful on nature's bounty looks,
Quenches his thirst at nature's brooks.

My parent dy'd when nature bid,
I spread my grandeur in his stead.
'Twas when that civil creature, man,
Unciviliz'd fair nature's plan,

* *Shawmut* was the Indian name of Boston. *Note in original.*

To flourish *then* it was my luck,
 When civil folks at nothing stuck,
 But would in
 And nought went [down but] *tar and feather* ;
 Ah me ! unhappy ! hard my fate,
 T' outlive the ruin of the state.
 'Tis true, I flourish'd many a year,
 And spread my branches full and fair :
 My body large and hale and plump,
 Fair all around from top to stump,
 'Till that fierce creature huge of size,
 With hundred heads and saucer eyes,
 Christen'd by name of liberty,
 Repair'd with boisterous sounds to me, }
 And for their *god* they chose a tree. }

'Twas then I first knew what was pain,
 First knew that godliness was gain :
 Under my shade my vot'ries met,
 In weather cold, hot, dry or wet.
 With flaming zeal they goug'd my body,
 Inspir'd with rum, and gin, and toddy :
 On me they hung a jacko's boot,
 And gather'd thick about my root :
 They stifled me with s[oil] and stench,
 And from me did my branches wrench :
 A massy pole they then erected,
 And with a rebel standard deck'd it,
 To make the rabble shout and stare,
 Fling up their caps, and curse and swear.
 The pole it galled my body sore,
 Chaff'd off my bark, and branches tore.
 A copper plate they [nail'd] to me,
 through me ;
 My juices by such usage thicken'd,
 The circulation stopp'd, I sicken'd,
 My branches they decay'd apace,
 I found I'd almost ran my race,
 Should soon be forc'd, as mankind must,
 To lay my honors in the dust.
 Thanks to the hand that cuts me down :
 Thanks to the ax that lops my crown :
 The paths of vice I never trod,
 I boast, I liv'd *the people's god*.
 My trunk, may't be to fuel turn'd,
 By *Howe*, be honor'd to be burn'd,
 That I to him may warmth impart,
 Who oft himself's warm'd many a heart.

If ever there should be a shoot,
 Spring from my venerable root,
 Prevent, oh heaven! it ne'er may see
 Such savage times of liberty:
 May it live long to see those times
 When justice dares to punish crimes;
 When GEORGE may see his laws regarded,
 And feel his virtues all rewarded:
 Live to rule over subjects loyal,
 And live rever'd, respected by all;
 Still in his sphere of virtue move,
 And feel returns of filial love;
 Trample rebellion under foot;
 And crush the monster, branch and root;
 Quell *Tylers*, *Cades*, and *Massianellos*,—
 Who sweat at puffing treason's bellows.
 From giving shades to mobs I go,
 Their future shades are *shades below*.

The following advertisements are copied from this issue of the "News-Letter":—

The fourth Subscription Ball will be held at Concert Hall on Thursday, the 29th instant, 1776.

*** Subscriptions are taken at the Printers in School-street, on Monday morning, from 10 to 2 o'clock (only).

It is requested that gentlemen will be so good as to comply with the rules,—particularly with that for having the names of the Ladies wrote on the Back of their Tickets.

MASQUERADE.

On Monday, the 11th of March, will be given at Concert Hall, a Subscription Masked Ball.—By the fifth of March, a number of different masks will be prepared & sold by almost all the milliners and mantua makers in Town.

The following editorial notice appears under the date of Boston, Feb. 22:—

We hear ten capital cooks are already employed in preparing supper for the masquerade, which is to be the most brilliant thing ever seen in America.

The ancient and most benevolent of the Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick. The Principal Knot of the 47th Regiment is to meet at the Bunch of Grapes on Thursday the 29th inst. at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. . . . All the Friendly Brothers in the army are requested to meet at the same place at one o'clock, on business relating to the order in general.

J. H. CRAIG, *S. P. K.* 47th Reg.

The following items, under the head-line of New York, Feb. 8, show that the war was not yet general : —

Between two and three o'clock Sunday afternoon, His Excellency, General Lee, arrived here from the Eastward. He was escorted into town by Capt. Learys troops of Light Horse & a great number of our principal inhabitants.

The two armies from Connecticut & New Jersey are arrived in this town.

Sunday last arrived the Mercury Sloop of War, from Boston, with whom came Gen. Clinton (who is going to the southward), on a friendly visit to Governor Tryon.

Washington drew his lines closer round Boston, and each day General Howe grew more anxious. This constant work stirred a Halifax genius to shine in the following effusion : —

“Ye Yankees who mole-like still throw up the Earth
And like them, to your follies are blind from your birth
Attempt not to hold British troops at defiance
True Britons with whom you pretend an alliance.
Mistake not, such blood ne'er run in your veins,
'Tis no more than the dregs, the lees or the drains ;
Ye affect to talk big of your hourly attacks,
Come on, and I'll warrant we'll soon see your backs,
Such threats of bravados seem only to warm.
The true British hearts you ne'er can alarm ;
And the lion once rous'd will strike such a terror
Shall show your poor souls your presumption and error ;
And the time will soon come when your whole rebel race
Will be drove from the lands, nor dare more show your face.
Here's a health to great George, may he fully determine
To root from the Earth all such insolent vermine.”

About this time there was quite a characteristic talk in Boston between an Englishman and an American on the bounds of the British empire in America. It is thus reported : —

A crafty American walking one day,
By chance a blunt Englishman lit on ;
Then dryly demanded — “Now tell me my friend,
The bounds of the Empire of Britain ?”

The Englishman, piqued at a question so home,
In an instant took fire like a rocket ;
And — swift to reply — first thrust in his hand,
And pulls out a map from his pocket.

"Behold this red line with my finger I trace :
 By THIS we our Empire bound, sir ;
 See ! Yonder it sweeps beyond Canada's lakes,
 Here circles your Colonies round, sir.

"By this both our force and our Empire's bounds
 Are formed to the fullest conviction."
 "I admit" (says the other) "its power and extent,
 But it is with some little restriction.

"For whilst on your maps you this Empire extend,
 By your little red line that's IDEAL ;
 You reflect not, its power is in Boston confin'd
 By a line of entrenchment that's real."

D. E.

The following lines appeared in the "London Chronicle" of Oct. 1, 1777, and the next day in the "General Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer" : —

A Dialogue between General Prescott and the Officer of the Party that took him Prisoner.

Prescott.

Says the General when taken, to him who commanded,
 "This surprise shews more cunning than skill."

Officer.

Says the other, "An exchange may now be demanded,
 Till then you may rave as you will :
 Lee now will return if the Howes ever do,
 If not, you'll in durance remain :
 Should Lee be transported, your Honour will too
 Bear equal confinement and pain."

Prescott.

"Like cowards you run, when we meet in the field,
 Never stay to receive us as men."

Officer.

Says the other, "Delaying will force you to yield,
 Yet we skirmish and fight now and then :

"At Lexington races you shew'd a light heel,
 Bunker's-hill proves it plain we can fight ;
 The Hessian battalions most knowingly feel,
 At Trentown discover'd their fright.

"Never say we are cowards, of Boston possess'd,
Which Howe in a dreary dismay,
Left in haste much behind him, and thought himself bless'd,
To get his light baggage away.

"You feel we can fight, when occasion presents,
Your muster returns make it plain ;
Or over such cowards, what is it prevents,
To inflict your tyrannical chain ?

"Such manœuvres as these will not ministry please,
Next Christmas will make it appear ;
The **** too, will be quite robb'd of his ease,
With two such retreats in one year."

LETTERS ILLUSTRATING THE SIEGE.

*John Sullivan to Samuel Adams.**

CAMP ON WINTER HILL, Jan. 3, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR, — Give me leave to assure you that my not writing you often proceeds only from want of time, being over engaged upon some affair or other that wholly engrosses my attention, though nothing of consequence has as yet resulted from our endeavor for want of an article so material as powder which next to money is the life and support of an army. I am almost ashamed to write when I can give account of no matters of consequence which has as yet turned up. Jack Frost has been promising us a bridge but alas it is now going to decay which prevents any attempt upon Boston for the present. During the last cold spell I solicited and obtained license from General Washington to make an attack upon Bunker Hill to sieze their out guards and burn the houses they use as barracks. I marched about two in the morning with an advance party of three hundred followed by a number with matches port fire and faggots covered by another party of about a thousand with which I meant if an opening presented to dispute the property of Bunker's Hill (then guarded only by five hundred men). The generals Putnam Heath and Green had their forces ready to assist if necessary. I had also a party of two hundred more to amuse them by a feint attack upon the other side the hill. We passed on to the creek and found the channel so weak that it could not be crossed ; indeed it was so weak as not to resist a small stroke with the butt end of a musket for which reason I was forced to return home *ashamed*. I had sent some officers the night before to reconoitre, who told me that they had gone almost across and found the ice sufficiently strong which by the way *was* true — for they went to a place where the channel ran close to the other side and supposed they had crossed, but the channel

* I am unable to say with positiveness who wrote this letter ; but, from circumstances, I ascribe it to General Sullivan. — R. F.

being crooked and my advance party going on in a different place, met the channel much nearer the side, which stopped our progress and defeated our intentions. I am however determined to be very busy with them as soon as the weather will permit.

I this moment received his Majesty's most graceless speech of the 26 of October last, and much applaud the moderation of our worthy senators in bearing with so much coolness the reflections cast upon them by his Majesty. He says they have been preparing for a revolt — while they were trying to amuse by the strongest protestations of loyalty! I, sincerely wish that our present situation did not prove the falsity of this declaration and the folly we have been guilty of in not giving his Majesty more foundation for this libel. I hope by this time you are all convinced that we have nothing to hope from Great Britain, and that you will act that part which even malice itself must now justify. That your councils may be guided by wisdom and that the results of your deliberations may procure *independence*, and safety to your country is dear sir the earnest prayer of your most

Obedient servant

HON. S. ADAMS.

Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in Philadelphia, dated Cambridge, Jan. 9, 1776.

Last evening, (January 8,) General Putnam achieved what our friend on Winter-Hill attempted. Major Knowlton commanded the party; Minchin, and a deserter, who lately came out, were the guides; about one hundred and thirty passed, near nine o'clock, over the mill-dam; Majors Cary and Henly had each a party, and the former was to push to the farthest house; (if you recollect, there was, to your right from Cobble-Hill, when you looked towards Bunker's Hill, about fifteen houses, which had escaped the conflagration on the 17th of June.) The plan was, to surprise these houses, set them on fire, and bring off the guard, which, we were informed, consisted of an officer and thirty men; but the information was wrong, as there was only a sergeant and five men. The persons appointed to set fire to the houses nearest the dam, had orders not to execute it until Cary had returned from the farthest; but, eager to fulfil what they had undertaken, they were the first that appeared in flames; sometime after, the whole was one blaze of fire. Had I Burgoyne's knack at description, I assure you, a picture might be drawn that would afford great horror, and, at the same time, great entertainment. Bunker's Hill took the alarm; the flashing of the musketry, from every quarter of that fort, showed the confusion of its defenders — firing, some in the air, some in the Mystick river; in short, they fired at random, and thought they were attacked at every quarter, which, you may suppose, gave no small pleasure to the General and a number of us who were spectators of the scene, from Cobble-Hill. Ten of the houses were soon in ashes.

The sergeant and four of the men, with one woman, were brought off prisoners; one poor wretch made some resistance, and was killed.

Knowlton behaved like a man used to the business ; your friend Minchin with great coolness ; Cary and Henly receive merited applause ; indeed, every person engaged, did his duty, except being rather too eager in setting the first house on fire. It is the opinion of many, that, if there was a vigorous attack made, the hill might be carried with little loss ; but it was not designed ; of course, no preparations were made for such a push.

James Warren to Samuel Adams, Jan. 14, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR,—I now sit down to write to you after a longer interval than the obligations I readily acknowledged myself under for your several favors can justify. Since my last I have been to Plymouth, and been so crowded with business here that I have not been able to gratify my own inclinations, or comply with your desires ; very few things however have turned up here worthy of your notice. The military operations are the same now as they have been for months past — purely defensive — and guarding against the excursions of the enemy ; excepting a little affair which happened last Monday night, which though not very important, was well executed, and is not without good effects ; inuring our soldiers to service, giving them fresh spirits, and encouraging enlistments. I mean the burning the houses in Charlestown — the particulars of which I dare say you will have before this reaches you. I wish it was in my power to give you a more favorable account of the state of the army than it is. The enlistments by no means answer my expectations, nor can I account for this backwardness in a way satisfactory to myself. I cannot give you the exact number, but doubt whether they exceed 10 or 11,000 after all “the amazing diligence” and trouble of the general, assisted by endeavors of individuals, as well as the general court. I am very anxious about this matter. It is high time that our army was established. I could have wished that some other mode had at first been adopted, but it is now too late to rectify any original error. We must go on and do as well as we can. I shall only mention to you that I think the service has suffered and the enlistments been embarrassed, by the low state in which you keep your treasury here. Had the general been able to have paid off the old army to the last of December when their term expired and to give assurances for the pay of the militia when their continuance in the army should end, it might have produced many good effects — among others, added some thousands to the army. You will be surprised perhaps, when I tell you there is but about 10,000 dollars here ; and that left by the necessary parsimony of the general, not knowing what occasion there might be for a little. The time for which our militia came in, ends to-morrow. We have presumed so much on the public spirit of our countrymen as to make no other provision, though every thing depends on their staying, and they wish to be at home. Our house adjourned yesterday morning, and the members went down among them to use their influence. I flatter myself most of them will stay to the last of this month. Our naval operations have been for a while suspended, the privateers mostly hauled up. I can

therefore give you no account of any late captures. I hear they are again fixing and hope they will soon have their usual success. Our general court are extremely busy — the business crowding on them is indeed without bounds. Besides the common business and the availing ourselves of our present situation to make some and repeal other laws — the necessary attention we are obliged to give the army is a very great addition to it. Could your congress be sensible of our assiduity, and the cheerfulness with which we submit to this trouble, and a great expense of time and money for the public good, it would of itself be an irrefragable argument of the public spirit which reigns here. The continual calls for aid to the army, in wood, hay, blankets, arms, men, &c. are of themselves sufficient to employ us, the length of our usual sessions. We have however been so long used to climbing mountains that we go on with a perseverance that demands admiration. I am sensible the circumstances you mention must give you pain. They are indeed not just. You must however extend your charity, and make allowances to some of the authors. I really believe the great perplexities they have been involved in, have prevented their seeing things in their true light. The principal things peculiar to ourselves, that we have been engaged in, is a militia bill, which with much difficulty is now nearly completed. It is too lengthy and would be too tedious to give you a particular account of. It may suffice to say, that all polls from sixteen to fifty, with the usual exceptions, are to form the train-band; and the alarm much as usual. It provides for three major generals in the colony and a brigadier in every county, where are more than one regiment, who with the field officers of the regiments are to be chosen by either house with the concurrence of the other and commissioned by the council. A ship is arrived at Falmouth which left England the beginning of Nov. By her we have the addresses of both houses in the usual style some additions to the minority. Parliament and administration going on the same way as usual &c. &c. which are things of no great consequence. The passengers relate some interesting facts: that the people begin to feel and stir themselves, that 1,800 troops sailed for Boston were drove back by hard gales of wind in a shattered condition that 13,000 sheep and hogs were shipped and sailed for Boston, drove back and lost, which are to be ranked in that train of events providence has ordered for the salvation of this country. You are to have the papers from the general and so I shall add no more, but improve the little time left me to inquire whether your congress should not by this time have a fixed constitution, that we may honor and consider as permanent, whether it is not time that you should form your alliances as the — has his. What is become of your club? What is the destination of the French armament in the West Indies — and whether you can't improve so favorable a circumstance to our advantage &c. &c. If we are not yet ripe for wise, prudent, and spirited measures when shall we be? But I must leave these inquiries and expect that if consistent with your engagements and honor you will tell me more than I ask for. Our good friend Mr. J. Adams will set out in a week or 10 days. I wish him with

you, as I think this must be an important crisis, and I hope will produce great events.

I am with the greatest sincerity
Your friend

JAMES WARREN.

We are improving the manufacture of saltpetre with great rapidity. We expect in three weeks Newburyport alone will make 100 lb. per day, powder-mills are also building.

No news from Canada later than 5 December, when the armies were joined reinforced by Canadians and in good health and spirits and all appearances favorable.

17th. We were called on for more men to come in to serve till the 1st of April. Seven regiments to consist of 728 each. Connecticut for four, New Hampshire for two—in all thirteen. All which will but complete the army to your establishment; from which you may judge of the present situation of it. Two prizes carried in yesterday to Newburyport by a small privateer: one a ship from London with coal and porter, the other a brigantine from Ireland with provisions.

Dr. S. Cooper to S. Adams, 23d January, 1776. [Extract.]

He (Elbridge Gerry) will tell you of the various applications to the general court upon the exigencies of the army, some of which I think might have been avoided; and of their uncommon exertions upon these occasions; and the zeal and unanimity with which they have aided the common cause. Great confidence is reposed in the coolness wisdom and firmness of the general to surmount all difficulties. I have seen London papers to the 2nd November. The opposition increases, but administration has still a great majority in both houses: and it appears upon the whole that they will exert all their force against us early in the spring.

By a vessel arrived at Boston there is an account of Gen. Gage's arrival, but no further intelligence has yet reached us. I saw your son yesterday, who gave me the pleasure of assuring me your family are well. I rejoice to hear of your health and spirits under your great public exertions, and wish you the continual direction and support of Heaven. Pray remember me to all friends, to the members for this province; and particularly to the president. I received a kind message from him by Mr. Cushing. Be so good as to write to me soon, even though you should think I do not deserve it; and I will endeavor to be more punctual in time to come. I am sir with the greatest regard and affection

Your old and constant friend
and humble servant

S. COOPER.

To Hon. S. ADAMS, Esq.

James Warren to Samuel Adams, Feb. 14, 1776.

MY DEAR SIR, — I have neglected writing to you by several opportunities prevented by various reasons, among others, by the hurry attending the close of a sessions. We have been about rising for a week past, but new matters continually pressing upon us has delayed it to this day. The design is to be up this evening, but I suspect the same cause will delay us one day longer. I have just left the house being very unwell. I intend to set out for home in the morning if I feel any ways fit for a journey. I have endeavored to get the pamphlet you mentioned, but have not succeeded. I have not had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Adams and can't learn what the title is; however I conjecture it may be Common Sense — which I have seen, and am (I dare say you will believe) among the many admirers of it, and therefore shan't blame you on account of its differing from my sentiments. The sentiments, the principles, and the whole book are prodigiously admired here by the best judges. Dr. Winthrop and Major Hawly are charmed with it. We three should certainly vote for a declaration of independence without delay, being fully convinced of the advantage and necessity of it: what can prevail with the congress to hesitate — when will the time and circumstances more proper arrive; can they ever? I dread the postponing this step; and I dread the more because I find the house of Lords, have got before them your petition; if they accept your offers, and close with you on your own terms, how are you to get clear of it? and if you can't where shall we be and what shall we do next? then certainly we shall not be in so good a situation for such a measure as now, besides spring is almost arrived when we shall want every aid and every advantage; therefore guard against the embarrassments that may be the consequence of treating, and proposals of reconciliation by taking a step in its nature and I hope in your intention as unalterable as the laws of the Medes &c. I wish I could give you anything pleasing or even new, but there is a perfect dearth of news here. No military operations on our side have yet taken place — the general is yet in want of powder sufficient to enable him to undertake anything of consequence. Last night a detachment of the enemy got on Dorchester Hill, burnt several buildings and took four or five prisoners, and then retreated without any loss. I can't ascertain the particulars of this affair which though not great is somewhat mortifying — no prizes lately taken. We have ordered a committee to furnish you with our journals and acts as fast as they are printed; by which you will be able to form some judgment how we spend our time. The reinforcement of the army by our militia is more than equal to my expectations and I believe equal to the call for them. I hope to hear from you soon. Where is your fleet. My regards to Mr. J. Adams and Gerry, and Col. Hancock. I shall write to Mr. Adams by first opportunity. I can't add more this evening but that I am your friend

JAMES WARREN.

I am directed by the house to desire our delegates to furnish us

with three or four sets of the printed journals of your August body. I have lost the vote or would enclose it.

We have not surmounted all our difficulties in forming the militia by completing the bill. The house chose Col. Hancock the first, your humble servant the second, and Col. Orme the third, Major generals. The board non-concurred [in] the second because they think as they say the choice militates with a clause in the act; forgetting it did as much so with the choice of several of their honors as military officers brigadiers &c. The vote by means of the non-concurrence is again before us. I am unable to say what the house will do with it. Orme refuses. Col. Hancock is objected to as being unable to attend &c. It lays for the present and will 'till next session. Thompson for Cumberland is among the brigadiers and concurred, and gives much uneasiness in that county; and I suppose some others will in others. I am glad to be out of the list, but the council have done it in a manner as ungracious and indelicate as Bernard or Hutchinson would have done; for which reason I have serious thoughts of quitting my civil commission and become an independent man. Saltpetre comes in finely, and we have given encouragement to build two more powder mills.

Horatio Gates to John Adams.

HEAD QRS., 8th March, 1776.

DEAR SIR, — Monday Night Two Thousand men under the Command of Brigadier General Thomas, took possession of Dorchester Heights: a vast Quantity of Materials being previously collected, especially Chandiliers & Fascines. Our Troops were soon cover'd; and long before day, began to Break Ground to thicken their defences against the Enemy's Cannon.

To conceal our design, & divert the Enemy's attention, a very Heavy Service of Cannon & Mortars, began to play upon the Town, between ten & eleven, Saturday night, from our Three Fortified Batteries at Cobble Hill, Letchmere point, & Lamb's Dam; this was continued all that night, & the two succeeding. The Enemy return'd The Fire constantly, but always ceased as we did, in the Mornings. Our Shot must have made great havock amongst the Houses, as I am confident they swept the Town: what Loss, otherwise suffer'd by the Enemy, we are Ignorant, as neither Townsman nor Deserter has yet come in to acquaint us. Monday morning at Sun-rise, expecting The Enemy would attempt to Force our New Works upon the Heights, everything was prepared for their proper reception; and a large Body of Troops were drawn up near Cambridge River, with Orders upon a Signal Given, to Embark on board the Flat Bottom'd Boats, & in Two Divisions push into Boston; but the Enemy disappointed us by remaining Sullen & Sulkey in Boston; suffering our Works upon the Heights to be carried on without any other molestation than now & then a Feint Cannonade upon Dorchester Neck; & even this ceas'd with the day. For neither side have since fired a Shott at each other. By Monday morning our Redoubts will be Finish'd & Barracks for

600 Men; so all that Peninsula may now be called ours, as the Cannon on the Heights Commands the whole of it. The behaviour of the Enemy since Monday strongly indicates their intention of removing from Boston; as their Heavy Cannon, Powder, &c., has been seen & heard Transporting from Bunker's Hill and the upper parts of the Town, to the Wharfs next the Shipping, for several days past: & this morning a Quantity of Bedding is observed putting on board Transports at the Long Wharf. Before we are quite ready to advance our Batteries upon Dorchester Point, I suspect the Enemy will Embarque. A few days will shew if am or am not mistaken. I was disappointed in not receiving your High Mightiness's Act of Independency by the Last Post.

The Middle way, the best, we sometimes call,
But 'tis in Polliticks, no way at all.

Shew this immediately to my Worthy Friend T. Johnson, & remember I have begun to fullfill my promise to you.

I am, Dear Sir, with great Esteem

Your affectionate Humble Servant,

HORATIO GATES.

Joseph Ward to John Adams.

CAMP AT ROXBURY, 14 March, 1776.

SIR, — The 2 inst. at night we began a cannonade & bombardment upon the Enemy, and continued it three nights successively: on the 4th at night we threw up works upon the heights on Dorchester Point. The next morning the *Pirates* in Boston & in the Harbour appeared to be in great agitation, and every day and night since have been preparing (according to our observations & the information from Town) to leave Boston. During our fire upon them, they returned it warmly with shot & shells, but thro' the good Providence of God, we lost but one Subaltern & four Privates in this Camp, & one private only in Cambridge. Several were slightly wounded. A sally was generally expected from the enemy when we took post on Dorchester Point, but there has been very little appearance of such a design. Since we are possessed of the heights which command the Town, it is generally apprehended the Pirates will go to New York or the Southern Colonies. *May all the winds of Heaven oppose them.* If the Enemy leave Boston, I trust measures will be immediately taken, to prevent them from being able ever to come into the Harbour again.

No important occurrences have taken place, which you have not been acquainted with. The Army is ordered to be ready to march, in case the Enemy should remove. Genl Ward's health being so precarious, he talks of resigning: if he should, what post will be assigned for me, or whether any, I know not; if any thing either in the Civil or Military should offer, wherein I could serve my Country, I shall continue in the public Service.

Our Privateers continue successful; & every appearance & the general state of things, affords I think, an encouraging prospect; and if

we persevere I cannot doubt but we shall soon see our Country in Freedom, Peace & Safety.

I hope COMMON SENSE will convince every doubting mind, with regard to the propriety & necessity of forming a *Government in America*. It is a glorious performance, & I think I see strong marks of *your pen* in it. I am persuaded the war would not be long if those sentiments were adopted, and that America would soon be the admiration & glory of the World. I trust Heaven will direct to it, & for which I ardently wish.

Genl Ward desires his Compliments to you & to your worthy Colleagues in Congress.

May the God of our Fathers direct all the Councils of America. I am, Sir, with great respect, &c.,

JOSEPH WARD.

Hon. JNO. ADAMS, Esq.

John Sullivan to John Adams.

WINTER HILL, March 15th, 1776.

DEAR SIR, — Your very acceptable Favour of the 7th Inst. came to hand this day. You could not have conferred a greater obligation on me than by giving yourself the Trouble to write me; but when you give me to understand that my Services are acceptable in your Eyes, & in the Eyes of the Congress in General, I already esteem myself fully rewarded for all my Toils, & cannot but persevere in my Endeavour to Deserve the good opinion of the Congress & my Country,

The Enemy after having been severely handled by our Shot & Shells for a few nights, found us in full possession of Dorchester Heights. This threw them into the utmost consternation. They Endeavoured to Elevate their Cannon, so as to reach our works, by sinking the Hinder wheels of the Cannon into the Earth, but after an unsuccessful Fire of about two Hours, they grew weary of it, & Desisted. They then ordered Lord Piercey with 3000 Troops, on board the Transports & to proceed to the Castle; from whence he was to come & attack our works on the South, while the Grenadiers & Light Infantry were to land from Boston on the north point of Dorchester — called Nook Point, & attack our Lines on the other side. This was no more than we expected, & had therefore prepared Signals at Roxbury to notify us of the Enemy's movement; & upon their making an attack at Dorchester, we were to land in our Boats on the North of Boston, and carry the Town, sword in hand. I was appointed to Command the first Division, & General Green the Second. General Heath was to remain in Cambridge with the Troops left here, & the attack was to be made with 4000, we not having Boats to carry more. Our Boats were prepared, & men Paraded by them ready to Embark, & all seemed to be in longing Expectation for the Signal: but the Renowned Lord Piercey Disappointed us, for he, instead of his Prospect Glass, took a multiplying Glass, & viewed our people from the Castle, & made them fifty thousand,

when in fact, we had only sent on four thousand. This prevented their attack & Depriv'd us the pleasure of walking the Streets of Boston for that time. The Troops then thought of nothing but quitting the Town, & have been ever since, preparing for their Departure.

TUESDAY, March 19, 1776.

DEAR SIR, — I had not time on the 15th Inst. to finish my Letter, & now beg Leave to give you some further Intelligence, viz. On Saturday Evening our People took possession of Nook Hill near Boston. They continued a Cannonading all night without hurting a man. In the morning they found the approaches so near, & being suspicious that we were about taking possession of Noddle's Island, they embarked early on Sunday morning, & fell down to the Castle. We saw the ships under way about 8 in the morning, & the River full of Boats with armed Soldiers. This gave an alarm, as some suspected they were about to land at Dorchester, but having a full view of them with a Glass from Plow'd Hill, I found they were going on board the Ships. I then took my Horse, & rode down to Charlestown Neck, where I had a clear view of Bunker Hill. I saw the Sentries standing as usual with their Firelocks shouldered, but finding they never moved, I soon suspected what Regiment they belonged to; and upon taking a clear view with my Glass found they were only Effigies set there by the flying Enemy. This convinced me that they were actually fled, for if they meant to Decoy us, they would have taken away every appearance of man. By this time, I was joined by Col^l Mifflin, who, with my Brigade Major agreed to go up, sending two persons round the works to Examine whether there was any of them in the Rear of the works, while we went up in the front. I, at the same time sent for a strong party to follow us on to the Hill, to assist us in running away (if necessary). We found no person there & bravely took a fortress Defended by Lifeless Sentries. I then brought on the Party to secure what we had so bravely won, & went down to the other works where we found all abandoned, but the works not injured in any part. We hailed the ferry Boat, which came over & Informed us that they had abandoned the Town. We then gave Information to the General, who ordered me with the Troops under my Command to take possession of Charlestown, & General Putnam with 2000 men, to take possession of the works in Boston; and on Monday morning His Excellency made his Entry into Boston, & Repaired to Mr. Hancock's House, where we found his Furniture left without Injury or Diminution. Indeed, General Grant sent for the man left in Charge of the House, & desired him to Examine whether any of the Furniture was damaged, which he said was not, (though I believe the Brave General had made free with some articles in the Cellar). Indeed, the Buildings, except the old wooden ones, have suffer'd but very little from the Rebel Army. We found about forty good Cannon, — a few 13 inch mortars, & great quantity of Stores, which they in their Hurry have left for our use. They spiked up the Cannon, but we can easily clear them. I shall this Day visit

your House, or rather, mine, & inform you what state it is left in, & for your sake and the Lady's who gave it me; as well as my own, shall see that no Injury is done to it in future 'till I can have the pleasure of seeing you and your family in full possession. I expect to march for New York in two or three days, — part of our army having marched some days since, & the whole is to follow, to prevent them getting possession of that Important Post. I have seen Common Sense & admire it. It takes well with the Army & the People in General, & I hope so Rational a Doctrine will be established throughout the Continent as the only Doctrine which will work out the Salvation of America. — You ask me if we have Col^o fit for Brigadiers, & who they are. I will undertake to Recommend one, viz. Col^o Stark, who is an old veteran, & has better pretensions than any other Col^o in the Army, though by Down right Dint of Blunder, he was Ranked below other Col^o in the Army; when by the very Principles the Committee pretended to go upon, he should have been the first; — this Recommendation I submit to your wise Consideration. I beg you to make my most Respectful Compliments to Col^o Hancock, Messrs. Adams, Pain & Gerry, & believe me to be, D^r Sir, with much respect,

Your most obed^t Serv^t

Hon. JNO ADAMS, Esq.

JNO SULLIVAN.

*Diary of Samuel Bixby.**

SUTTON, Mass., May 4, 1775.

Took our journey, and encamped this night at Sudbury.

5th. Took our journey, & pitched our tents in Roxbury.

6th. It is said the regulars were about to make an attack somewhere; and about 6 o. c. P.M. the Army was on the Grand parade. The Col. ordered us to lie by our arms & ammunition all night. But there was no disturbance.

14th. Last Sunday the Meeting House was full of soldiers, and news came that the regulars were landing on Dorchester Point. The Gen^l ordered the drums beat to arms, and as soon as the drums sounded, the soldiers were out of the Meeting House in the twinkle of an eye. We paraded, and marched to Dorchester Neck, as it was said, the enemy was landing from the Castle. It proved to be a false alarm, and we returned to our quarters. We were ordered to lie by our arms through the night.

27th. Saturday. About 200 men were detached to go to the Point to guard it. About 9 or 10 o. c. in the evening we heard the cannon roar, and the small arms crack for about an hour, in the direction of Marblehead or Medford, as we thought. We have since learnt that it was Col. Putnam, & his men on Noddle's Island, where he engaged the regulars, and took 300 sheep, & 200 lambs. One ship run aground, & they burnt it. He also took some cattle.

* He was in Isaac Bolster's Company, of Sutton, in Colonel Larned's Regiment. Enlisted May 1, to serve to Dec. 31, 1775.

June 1st. Thursday. Now I shall endeavour to put some things upon record every day, that are transacted during my campaign. We heard to-day that a soldier over at Cambridge was deeply in love, & wished to go home to see his *dear*, and being refused leave of absence by his Captain, (Wood) went into a barn and hanged himself. Two others died of sickness the same night.

2d. Friday. Guards & fatigues as usual.

3d. Saturday. Drawed provisions for Sunday; namely, Bread, Dry-fish, Potatoes, Butter, Rice, &c.

4th. Sunday. Nothing remarkable.

5th. Monday. This day is "Artillery Election;" but it was not much thought of by the soldiers. About 12 o. c. the regulars fired from the Fortification; and they fired from the Castle at a party of our men on shore digging clams, but did no damage. Our men picked up one of the balls, a 24 pounder, and carried it to the Gen^l, who gave them two gall^s of rum. A party of our men out towards Noddle's Island captured a barge and four men belonging to a man of war, & carried it ashore at Cambridge, and this day brought the barge to Roxbury in a cart, with the sails up and three men in it. It was marched round the meeting-house, while the Engineer fired the Cannon for joy.

6th. Tuesday. Orders to wash the floor of the Barracks, and clean out every hole and corner, and to sweep the yards. Gen^l Thomas and Heath went to Dorchester Point to view & lay out a place where to entrench, in order to storm the Castle. The regulars fired three times at them with their Cannon, but did no harm. Our sentries stopped a team going into Boston with a load of hay. They threw the hay off, & found 2 calves, 32 watches, a great number of letters, some veal, several boxes butter, 2 bushels green peas, and some mutton.

7th. Wednesday. William Waite of Sutton, went into Boston with his team, and carried a load of goods back for the liberty men in Boston.

8th. Thursday. A man to be whipped 20 lashes for stealing.

9th. Friday. The man who was going into Boston with the hay &c. was tried by a Court Martial, and acquitted, as he proved not to be a Tory. —

June 10th, 1775. Saturday. Nothing remarkable.

11th. Sunday. Last night Mr. Evans died of the pleurisy.

12th. Monday. General Orders: That every man shall turn out at the break of day on the Grand parade till further orders.

13th. General Court Martial. A man sentenced to 20 lashes and drummed out of camp for striking without cause, a soldier. — Eight ships sailed into Boston harbor to day.

14th. Wednesday. Squire Pain's son of Worcester went into Boston with his horse. The sentries searched his saddle bags, & then let him pass.

15th. Thursday. Nothing remarkable.

16th. Friday. Firing by the regulars in Boston. Went on the Grand

parade, where about 800 men were drawn for the Point Piquet, and about 600 to entrench the piquet.

About 9 o. c. P. M. the regulars in Boston fired an alarm, and rung the bells. We heard them drawing the carriages to the neck, & the riding of horses with great speed up to their guard and back into Boston, and there was great commotion there. It was supposed they were preparing to attack us in the morning, but no special orders were issued. The town seemed to be alive with men marching in all directions.

June 17th, 1775. Saturday. Col. Putnam with a large party went on to a hill in Charlestown, called Bunker's Hill, last night to entrench, & this morning the British discovered him, & commenced firing at the men on the hill. A heavy fire was opened at Col. Putnam from the ships, & also from the fortifications in Boston. The regulars went over in barges in great numbers and landed in Charlestown to attack Col. Putnam. Our men returned the fire smartly, and the battle appeared to rage fiercely. The entrenchment was not quite completed, and our men having spent their ammunition, still defended themselves bravely, but were obliged to retreat. The regulars set houses on fire, & did all manner of mischief. Col. Putnam retreated to another hill, & went to entrenching there, while the British kept up a constant fire upon him.

About noon we fired an alarm, & rung the bells in Roxbury; and every man was ordered to arms, as an attack was expected.

Col. Larned marched his Reg^t up to the meeting house, & then to the burying yard, which was the alarm post, where we laid in ambush with two field pieces placed to give it to them unawares, should the regulars come.

About 6 o. c. the enemy drew in their sentries, & immediately a heavy fire was opened from the Fortification. The balls whistled over our heads, & through the houses, making the clap-boards and shingles fly in all directions.

Before the firing had begun, the Gen^l ordered some men down the street to fall some apple trees across the street, to hinder the approach of their Artillery.

Lieut. Hazeltine picked up a 12 lbs ball — we were anxious to get their balls as though they were gold balls. The firing is still kept up at Charlestown & Cambridge. The enemy threw bomb-shells hourly into Roxbury during the night. Col. Larned ordered his Reg^t to encamp in the safest place. Our company took cover behind a hill.

18th, Sunday. Paraded at the burying yard, & then went into quarters. The firing of cannon & small arms continued at Charlestown and Cambridge, and several more houses burnt. A man belonging to the Connecticut Reg^t was struck in the shoulder by a cannon ball, & died this morning. No other man was hurt in Roxbury. The Rhode Islanders laid out a piece of ground for an entrenchment, & went to work entrenching. Gen^l Thomas ordered them to cease work, but they swore they would not, and he thought best to let them go on with the work.

June 19th, 1775. Monday. Our men were ordered to another place to entrench. We hear from Cambridge that Col. Putnam is entrenching, & that the regulars are still firing at him.

✓ 20th. Tuesday. Entrenching here and at Cambridge, and but little firing.

21st. Wednesday. A fatigue party to cut *facines* for the Fort. We cannot go nearer the Point now, than on to Dorchester neck, as the enemy might cut us off from the way of the marsh; and with their Guns of the Ships & Blockhouse. Our sentries spied 3 men of war-men on shore, & fired at them. Two were killed.

✓ About 4 o. c. P. M. The Rev. M. Paine of Sturbridge preached a sermon to our Regt from Judges 20th c. 28th v. "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of Benjamin, my brother?"

22d. Thursday. We are still entrenching here & in Cambridge, & making our position as strong and secure as we can. We have thrown up a strong work across the street, and also one across the road to Dorchester. The enemy has withdrawn the sentries to the Fortification.

Within three weeks 14 Ships have arrived in Boston harbor.

✓ 23d. Friday. Nothing new this day, unless it is new to dig graves. We can see the regulars, with the spy glass digging graves in Boston. — We are still building the Fort.

June 24th, 1775. Saturday. A house near our entrenchment was ordered to be taken down, as it might be set on fire by a bomb-shell & render the entrenchment too hot for us. A party soon began the work, and about 1 o. c., the British opened a fire upon them.

Col. Larned paraded at the Burying Yard, & the regulars continued to fire shells at us.

A house on (Boston) Neck, called "Brown's House" was used by the regulars for a Guard House; and a party of our men obtained leave to set it on fire, and burn them out. But they were discovered too soon, & did not succeed. The parties had a pretty smart skirmish. Our party had two men killed. But we brought down a field piece & gave them a few shots; the first ball fired went through the house & drove them out. The firing was continued on both sides for some time. Two houses in Roxbury were set on fire.

25th. Sunday. Another attempt was made to burn the "Brown House," but we did not succeed. One man wounded. Our men returned the fire of the regulars briskly. Smart skirmishing with the enemy throughout the day on the neck, (Boston.) They lost several men.

26th. Monday. The guards kept a firing with small arms during the day. About sun-set the Rhode Islanders marched down to the guard, & fired 7 or 8 times at the regulars; & they returned three shots. No damage done to our men.

✓ 27th. Tuesday. We are building defences on Dorchester Neck. The Regulars fire at us occasionally. A man under guard jumped out of the garret window, and killed himself.

28th. Wednesday. A soldier was drummed out of camp for defaming the General.

✓ 29th. Thursday. Haynes Larned, son of Col. Larned, crept down to near the regular's guards last night, and fired at one of the sentries, and *dropt* him.

30th. Friday. General Orders:—The Drummers & Fifers shall parade at Head Quarters at 8 o'clock A.M. each day to call the Main Guard, & at 4 o'clock P.M. to call the Regt on to the Grand Parade. Also, that all sorts of gaming, such as card playing & the like, shall be suppressed. Last night, the Rhode Islanders went down to the guard with a field piece, & fired nine times at the regulars. They returned three shots.

July 1st. Saturday. We are fortifying on all sides, and making it strong as possible around the Fort. We have two 24 lbs. Cannon, & forty balls to each. We have hauled apple trees, with limbs trimmed sharp & pointing outward from the Fort. We finished one *platform*, & placed the Cannon on it just at night, and then fired two balls into Boston.

2d. Sunday. This morning at 4 o'clock the regulars opened a heavy fire at us which was continued till about 7 o'clock, sending in among us balls, bomb-shells, carcasses, & stink pots. One house was burnt. We mounted guard at the usual hour, & marched to the Col's quarters and attended prayers; after which we returned to our quarters, with orders to keep ourselves ready for a start; and should there be no alarm before 2 o'clock P.M. the Regt would attend public worship at the Col's Quarters. There was no alarm, & we accordingly attended the Divine Worship.

Our Company drew powder & balls enough to make up 30 rounds to each man.

3d. Monday. Orders from the Congress:—That the Captains of the several Companies shall make returns of the age & height of the men of their respective Companies:—where born—whether sons or servants:—when enlisted, & who under.

✓ 4th. Tuesday. James Wood, a soldier, broke his arm wrestling.

✓ 5th. Wednesday. Both of the new Generals, Washington and Lee, came into town (Roxbury) to day.

6th. Thursday. A flag of truce came from Boston, & was suspected as a spy. We were ordered to lie by our arms. I slept with my gun in my arms, & used my cartridge box for a pillow.

July 7th, 1775. Friday. Nothing.

8th. Last night we planted two pieces of artillery within range of the enemy's out post on the neck. About sun rise this morning a fire was opened on their guard house, which took fire. Our men fired with small arms also. Two regulars were killed. A floating battery was brought into the Bay near us, but we drove them away with our artillery. On this fight, our party burnt two houses & one barn, took 1 gun, 1 Bayonet, 1 halbert, & it is reported we killed several of the enemy.

A *flag* came into Roxbury camp from Boston with letters.

9th. Sunday. Cut down apple trees & trimmed the limbs sharp, & built a sort of breast work across the road, with their points toward Boston to stop the light horse, should they come to attack us.

10th. Monday. Nothing remarkable.

11th. Tuesday. Last night a party went to attack Brown's Store. It was the only house left standing on the Neck this side of the Fortification. The store was set on fire, and a smart firing of small arms was kept up on both sides.

12th. Wednesday. Last Wednesday a detachment of about 400 men marched down to Weymouth, & from there went in whaleboats to an Island, & captured 13 men, 2 boys, 2 women, 200 sheep, 19 head horned cattle, & several hogs. The 45 boats landed at Dorchester, & the 13 men were brought to Roxbury.

13th. Thursday. The regulars fired at our fatigue party which was throwing up an embankment on the marsh to set piquets in.

The regulars fired shot & shells at times during the day. Reuben Stockwell, of Sutton, died this afternoon about 3 o'clock of the camp distemper. He belonged to Capt. Daggett's Company, & was in his 20th year of age.

14th. Friday. Last night a party undertook to capture the enemy's sentries, but did not succeed. The party was discovered, & fired upon, & a smart skirmish took place. We lost one man belonging to the Connecticut forces.

15th. Saturday. Last night 200 men were ordered to march quietly down to "George's Tavern," & throw up a breast work on the marsh.

16th. Sunday. General orders: To ascertain who, & how many in each company were expert in managing whale boats.

17th. Monday. Col. Larned & a number of his officers and soldiers took a walk to Dorchester point this morning for pleasure, & were fired at.

18th. Tuesday. About eleven o'clock the party at George's were fired upon. We sent a few balls into Boston, & the guards fired at each other.

19th. Wednesday. Nothing remarkable.

July 20th, 1775. Thursday. This day was set apart by our Rulers as a Day of Fasting throughout the twelve Tribes of America. Another flag of truce came from Regulars in Boston, with some letters about the poor. The Captain of our guard told him to inform Gage that all our Generals were well; and also that Hancock & Adams were well, and likely to live, & that we are all ready for him to come out.

21st. Friday. A man of Col. Reed's Regt was accidentally shot.

22d. Saturday. Nothing remarkable.

23d. Sunday. Nothing.

24th. Monday. Nothing.

25th. Genl Washington, Genl Lee, & Genl Ward came from Cambridge to take a view of things in Roxbury.

26th. Wednesday. Genl Ward marched his Regt into Roxbury this day.

27th. Thursday. A deserter from Cambridge reports that the regulars are to attack Putnam's Fort.

28th. Friday. A deserter came in today, and says the regulars have but 900 men fit for duty, in Boston.

29th. Saturday. Nothing remarkable to-day.

30th. Sunday. Had an alarm, & the Adjutant General ordered the troops to the alarm post.

31st. Monday. Night before last a party of our men on Cambridge side went on to Charlestown neck, attacked the regular guard, & killed four men, & captured two. Last night about midnight, our troops at Cambridge began firing at the enemy. They fired also from Brookline Fort, & here in Roxbury, into Boston. The regulars had it from all sides. Our guard near "George's Tavern" were drove in. The enemy fired from their ships & other places. "George's Tavern" & barn were burnt. The Cannon roared like thunder in all directions. Bomb shells were flung into Roxbury, but generally went over us. One man of our company was wounded.

August 1st. Tuesday. Yesterday we had a fight with the regulars down at the light house. We killed a considerable number of them, made prisoners of 35 regulars & 7 Tories, burnt two schooners, one house & one barn; sunk one barge and took a great deal of plunder. We had one killed & one wounded. The regulars kept up a cannonading all day.

2nd. Wednesday. One of Genl Washington's riflemen was killed by the regulars to day & then hung! up by the neck! His comrades seeing this were much enraged, & immediately asked leave of the Genl to go down and attack them. He gave them permission to go and do as they pleased. The Riflemen marched immediately & began operations. The regulars fired at them from all parts with cannon and swivels, but the Riflemen skulked about, and kept up their sharp shooting all day. Many of the regulars fell, but the riflemen lost only one man.

A flag of truce came from Boston for a cessation of hostilities six days, but our Genl would not agree to it, & sent it immediately back. About 1 o. c. the enemy fired from their floating batteries which was returned from the Brookline Fort. We fired the 24 pounder in the Great Fort above the meeting house, three times. One ball went into Boston, & two struck their breast work.

✓ 3d. Thursday. Our men at Cambridge keep picking off the regular's sentries daily, & they continue to fire with their cannon at us.

✓ 4th. Friday. About the same as yesterday.

5th. Saturday. The Captain who was at the burning of "George's Tavern" was broke for improper conduct.

6th. Sunday. This morning the regulars fired at our sentries, & our men gave them back the same.

7th. Monday. Major Tupper went into Boston, as far as the enemy's sentries with a flag of truce.

8th. Tuesday. The regulars took a floating Battery up to the north side of Charlestown and set two houses on fire. Soon our men brought out a field battery, and compelled them to withdraw.

9th. Wednesday. Nothing remarkable going on to day. A good deal of sickness in the camps with the camp distemper.

10th. Thursday. A flag of truce came from Boston, with letters

concerning the prisoners on both sides. In the afternoon another came concerning the liberty people in Boston.

11th. Friday. A family came to Roxbury by way of Charlestown, & report that the British are plundering Boston, & loading their vessels with the plunder.

12th. Sat. About 1 o'clock p. m. a Regiment of Riflemen arrived in Roxbury. Our men we have heard, took a tory and several regulars & brought them into Cambridge. They were going eastward for stores. The firing we saw over at Charlestown neck last night was the riflemen attacking the regulars. The enemy lost several killed, & four made prisoners.

13th. Sun. Nothing.

14th. Mon. Last night we began to entrench down by Roxbury burying yard on each side of the street; — one in the orchard at the right hand, and one at the left hand, down towards "George's Tavern."

August 15th, 1775. Tuesday. About 2 o'clock the enemy opened a cannonade from the Fortification and floating battery; but our men kept entrenching. We flung a few shots from the Fort, and with a field piece. They still keep pitching bomb-shells. One of our men was wounded.

16th. Wedn. The enemy keep up a firing upon our fatigue parties in the entrenchments, but they mind it not.

17th. Thurs. Three or four deserters came in from the ships of war. Also, a light horseman from Boston by swimming his horse — reports sickness among the regulars.

18th. Frid. The regulars continue to fling balls and bombs at our fatigue parties. The riflemen picked off a few of the regulars to day.

19th. Sat. Nothing remarkable. A deserter came in last night by swimming from Boston Common to Roxbury.

August 20th, 1775. Sunday. The deserters who came in last night report, that Gage's wife is about to sail for England.

A Guard was posted down at Lamb's Dam.

21st. Mon. A flag came out as far as our lower sentries.

22d. Tuesday. Cannonading by the regulars. A deserter came in.

23rd. Wed. Last night a party of our men took two boats, and rowed from the tide mill down the Bay to within gun shot distance of the regulars camp on Boston Common; & then formed broad side on, and fired into their tents. It was a dark night & the party returned without loss.

24th. Thurs. One of our riflemen deserted last night. Fifteen ships sailed out of Boston harbor this day.

300 men were ordered to entrench at the lower end of Roxbury street last night, & 300 men were stationed at Lamb's Dam to protect them.

25th. Frid. Nothing but a bomb shell from Boston which fell in Roxbury.

26th. Sat. A brisk firing of small arms over at Charlestown neck.

August 27th, 1775. Sun. The firing at Charlestown neck yesterday by our men & the regular's guard.

28th. Monday. We see heavy firing from Bunker's Hill at our men on Prospect Hill.

The enemy drew up two floating batteries, from which they opened a fire upon them also. Our men returned the fire with good effect, by which one of the batteries was sunk. A brisk fire of small arms was kept up for some time.

29th. Tues: A Company of Riflemen arrived in Roxbury to day. Heavy firing on Bunker's Hill.

30th. Wed. Nothing.

31st. Thurs: The regulars came out this side of the Fortification last night.

Sept. 1st. Friday. A deserter came out last night. It was very dark and rainy, & the enemy gave us a shower of balls and bomb shells, some of which fell in Roxbury Street. We lost three men.

2nd. Sat. This morning we spied the enemy entrenching at Brown's Chimnies, & we fired at them from the lower fort, and with a field piece. Elias Sibley, of Sutton, died this morning at 4 o'clock of the camp distemper. He had come to stay awhile in the place of Serjeant Jonathan Gould.

3rd. Sun: Nothing of note.

Sept. 4th, 1775. Mon: Guards & fatigues.

5th. Tues: Things seem to go very dull at present. We have heard that it is very sickly in the country, & sore judgments seem to be coming upon us on all sides.

6th. Wed: Our fatigue parties are at work on both sides, below George's Tavern & at Lamb's Dam.

7th. Thurs: — A Lieut. in Col. Cotting's Regt. was accidentally shot in the side.

8th. Frid: Our fatigue party building a Fort on the Hill above Lamb's Dam, were fired upon by the enemy. They flung 6 or 7 balls and 2 bomb shells.

9th. Sat: Nothing important.

10th. Sun: The enemy flung several shot amongst our fatigue parties.

11th. Mon: Nothing.

12th. Tues: All quiet.

13th. Wed: Heard firing from the ships in the harbor.

14th. Thurs. A deserter came out from Boston.

15th. Fri. A deserter came from Boston last.

16th. Sat. Guards & fatigues as usual.

17th. Sun. This morning about 8 o'clock the regulars fired at our Main Guard 3 or 4 balls, and we gave them back 8 or 9 with our 12 & 18 pounders.

Sept. 18th, 1775. Mon: About 9 o'clock this morning the enemy began firing into Roxbury Street, and continued it at intervals during the day. We returned the fire.

19th. Tues. About 9 o'clock this morning the enemy opened another heavy fire into Roxbury. We returned one or two shots.

20th. Wed: Heavy firing from the ships at our men on Prospect Hill.

21st. Thurs: We fired from the lower fort with our 18 pounder, which was returned by the Regulars with balls and shells. The Guards on both sides fired at each other.

22d. Frid: Last night 15 men deserted from the ships in boats. A number of boats have been brought into Roxbury by the deserters. This is the "King's Coronation Day," and at 12 o'clock the regulars fired on Boston Common and Bunker's Hill; and at 1 o'clock P. M. the Admiral's ship fired a salute. They fired also from all the other ships, and at the Castle.

23rd. Sat: At 8 o'clock this morning the enemy opened a heavy fire from the fortification, & flung over a 100 balls into Roxbury. We returned a few shots from our lower fort. They fired from the Castle.

24th. Sun. Guards and fatigues.

Sept. 25th, 1775. Mon. This morning we fired from our lower fort, & sent some 12 and 18 lbs. shots into Boston, but they did not return the fire.

26th. Tues: Nothing remarkable to-day.

✓ 27th. Wed: A scouting party came in from Governor's Island, with 11 cows & 2 horses.

28th Sept. Thurs. Nothing to note.

29th. Friday. Nothing.

30th. Sat. At 9 o'clock A. M. we fired two 18 lbs balls into Boston, and the regulars gave us back upwards of twenty.

Oct. 1st. Sunday. Guards & fatigues.

2nd. Mon: Just at night the enemy threw 7 or 8 balls into Roxbury. We returned the fire from the lower fort.

3rd. Tues. 4th. Wed. Nothing these days of importance.

5th. Thurs. A sale at Major Smith's of the plunder taken at the *light house*, the proceeds to go to Major Tupper & his party, who captured it.

6th. Frid. About 9 o'clock A. M. we flung two 18 lb balls into Boston from the *lower fort*, just to let them know where to find us, for which the enemy returned 90 shots. We had one man wounded.

7th. Sat. Guards & fatigues.

Oct. 8th, 1875. Sunday. A deserter came in last night, and reports that both shots of ours, fired into Boston on the 6th took effect, killing one man and wounding another.

9th. Mon. Nothing remarkable.

10th. Tues: Same.

11th. Wedn: Building barracks.

12th. Thurs: Regimental Orders: From this time forward every soldier not on duty, shall turn out on the parade at 2 o'clock P. M., & exercise to the best advantage, & for the good of these Colonies.

13th. Frid. A flag of truce came out from Boston with letters to our Generals.

Some firing from the ships in the harbor.

14th. Saturday. Firing on Bunker's Hill.

15th. Sunday. The fatigue men were set to work entrenching,

which is not practised in our Regt on Sundays. Mr. Pope, of Spencer, preached to our Regt. Genl Thomas attended the Worship.

16th. Mon. 17th. Tues. General orders : — That Coal be furnished for the redoubts, & the sentries be relieved at midnight, & hourly during the remainder of the night — per order. Building barracks, & watch boxes, & burning bricks: the masons are also called for, to prepare for winter quarters.

Oct. 18th, 1775. Wedn. A party of our men at Cambridge went on board of two floating batteries, and sailed down the Bay by Brookline Fort, to near Boston Common, and opened a smart fire into the town. Unfortunately one of the cannon burst, by which eleven men were wounded — one mortally. They also lost two swivels, and two chests powder.

19th. Thurs. All quiet.

20th. Frid. The regular's guards fired a few times at our men in the redoubts.

✓ 21st. Sat. A deserter came in last night, & reported that it is sickly in Boston.

22nd. Sun. Guards & fatigues.

23rd. Mon: Col. David Brewer was tried by a Court Martial, for giving his son, 16 years of age, a commission, and drawing the pay for him for the month of August, while the inexperienced lad was at home in his own service. Also, for sending two soldiers belonging to his Regiment to work on his farm! The Court ordered the said David Brewer to be dismissed the service. *Amen to that.*

24th. Tues. General Orders. The Officers will give notice at Head Quarters of their intentions to serve another year. Per order.

Oct. 25th, 1775. Wedn. Heavy firing on Boston Common, by the ships in the harbor, and the Castle, in honor of the king.

26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. Generally quiet.

30th. Mon. Some heavy firing from the ships this day.

31st. Tues. Guards & fatigues.

Nov. 1st. Wedn. Guards as usual.

2d. Thurs. Heavy firing from the ships.

3rd. Frid. Some may think that I put down things which do not happen. But I put nothing down but such as I am certain of. And you may depend upon it, that all I say here is the truth.

SAMUEL BIXBY.

4th. Sat. Guards & fatigues.

5th. Sun. The firing last Sunday we have heard was, "mourning for the King."

6th. 7th. 8th. All quiet.

9th. Thurs. Sharp firing over at Charlestown Neck by a party of regulars from the ships, & our men. We had one killed, & one wounded.

10th. Friday. All's well.

11th. Saturday. Last night the tide overflowed Dorchester Neck. The picquet guard was ordered in; otherwise the regulars would have cut them off.



Nov: 12th, 1775. Sunday. All sorts of rumors brought by the deserters.

13th. Mon: Last night the regulars advanced up toward our Redoubt. The Guard opened a brisk fire at them and drove them back.

14th. Tues: Recruiting men to serve one year.

15th. Wed. 16th, 17th. Nothing remarkable.

18th. Sat. General Orders:—The fatigue parties will begin work at 9 o'clock A.M., & continue until 3 o'clock P.M.

19th. Sunday. The floating battery near Boston Neck, moved off this day.

20th. Mon: General Orders:—The Main Guard will be commanded by a Field Officer, & consist of 3 Captns. 9 Subalterns, 18 Serjeants, 18 Corporals & 360 privates. The piquet guard 1 Subaltern, 2 Serg^{ts} & 2 Corporals from each Reg^t.

21st. Tues: General Orders:—No man will be permitted to carry away his gun, when the term of his service is ended; as it will be appraised & the value thereof paid in money.—Per order.—

22nd. Wedn: Regimental Orders:—The Reg^t will not parade at the alarm post as heretofore, but will attend prayers at the usual times, that is, at a little before sunrise.—

Nov. 23rd, 1775. Thursday. This is a day of Public Thanksgiving throughout the Province. We had the Rev. Mr. Bowman of Oxford to preach to us at the Col.'s as usual. Text 101 Psalm, 1 verse.

24th. Friday. Orders came last night from Gen. Washington to Gen. Thomas, & from him to Col. Larned, for every man to lie by his arms, & with his clothes on, as an attack was expected from the enemy, who had given out word that they would take supper with us in Roxbury on Thanksgiving night.

25th. Sat. General Orders:—The main guard will in future parade in the street from Howe's Bake-house to the Guardhouse.

Regimental Orders.

That the drums & fifes beat down the street, from the Col.'s quarters as far as his right, every morning at sunrise, & at one hour before sunset to call the troops to Prayers.

26th. Sun. A flag of truce was sent into Boston by Col. Parsons, & one was returned by the enemy.

27th. Mon. I read in the "News Print" that Gen. Howe sent out from Boston by way of Chelsea, 300 of the town's poor; men, women and children.

28th. Tues. Guards & fatigues.—

Nov. 29th, 1775. Wedn. Gen^l Ward's Orders to the Capt. of the Main Guard to allow no persons to send letters into Boston, or to go beyond our sentries, without a written permit from the Gen^l in Command. He is to be very vigilant, & see that there is no waste of the private property in Roxbury.

30th. Thurs. Nothing important.



Decr. 1st. Friday. Guards & fatigues as usual.

2nd. Sat: I went with Col. Larned & several other officers & soldiers, about 50 in all, to Dorchester Point, for a pleasure walk. While there, we were fired at from the Castle, 6 or 7 times.

3rd. Sun: Moses Foster, of Sturbridge, belonging to Capt. Martin's Company, was buried in Roxbury.

4th. Mon: Orders from Genl Washington: That no person be sent into Boston with a flag of truce, who has not had the small pox: & that all letters from Boston to be dipped in vinegar before perusing them.

5th. Tues: Nothing. —

6th. Wedn. General Orders:

The main guard shall parade from Howe's Bakehouse to Doct. Davis' great house.

Dec. 7th, 1775. Thurs: Capt. Ingersoll was tried by a Court Martial for spreading false reports about the Country, tending to defame the General. He was fined £8, and dismissed the service. —

8th. Friday. The same Court fined one man £8.7s., and sentenced him to two years imprisonment in the New Gate Prison in Simsbury, for stealing & deserting; and another man, John Smith, for similar offences, was fined £8, and sentenced to six months at Newgate.

9th. Saturday. Nothing.

10th. Sunday. All is quiet.

11th. Mon: Several Companies of militia marched into Roxbury to day.

12th. Tues. Several Companies of militia arrived in Roxbury to day, & joined Col. Larned Regt.

13th. Wed. Nothing of note.

14th. Thurs. Regimental Orders.

The Regiment will parade tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock at the Col's quarters, & march to the alarm post to instruct the militia.

15th. Friday. Attended prayers as usual, and it being a wet day, we stood with our hats on.

16th. Sat. Regimental parade as usual.

17th. Sun. The Regulars fired from the ship near Bunker's Hill, at our men on Cobble Hill. In the evening they fired from Beacon Hill, and from the Ship. Our men returned the fire. —

Dec. 18th, 1775. Mon. That ship near Bunker's Hill dropped down into the harbor to day.

19th. Tues. The Regulars kept up a heavy fire from Beacon hill, of balls and shells, at intervals during the day and night, at our men on "Lechmere's Point."

20th. Wedn. The firing is continued on Beacon hill.

21st. Thurs. Lieut. Col M^cNott was tried by a Court Martial for treating Lieut Goodell in an unbecoming manner. Fined £2.

Col. Cotton, Pres^t

22d. Frid. All quiet.

23d. Sat. Several men discharged from Col. Larned's Regt Wednesday.



24th. Sun. Paraded as usual.

25th. Mon. No Chaplain in Col. Larned's Reg^t at present.

26th. Tues. Troubles as usual, but nothing remarkable.

27th. Wed. In future the sentries of the Main Guard will be relieved hourly, & oftener, if the Officers see fit.

28th. Thurs. General Orders.

The new recruits will join their respective Reg^{ts} at Roxbury & Cambridge on the 1st day of January next. —

Dec. 29th, 1775. Friday. We of Col. Larned's Reg^t received one month's pay. Last night there was firing of small arms near Bunker's hill. It is said, our men undertook to storm the fort on the hill, by crossing over on the ice; but the ice was not strong enough. We had two men drowned.

30th. Saturday. General Orders.

The old Regiments of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, & Rhode Island will parade tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to receive the instructions of the Commander in Chief, concerning their arms; & to see what they intend to do with them; for such noncommissioned Officers & privates as shall presume to carry home their arms, contrary to an express General Order, and the pressing necessities of the country, will be *mulct* in the sum of their pay and rations.

31st. Sunday. Paraded according to the above order, but had no further instructions.

January 1st, 1776. Monday. Paraded, and had our guns inspected, and returned our ammunition. Col. Larned desired us not to leave until properly discharged by the General, whose orders he expected to have within an hour, but the largest part of the companies left. Some of us remained in camp till morning.

Jan. 2nd, 1776. Tuesday. This morning the drums beat for prayers, and we attended. After which, the Col. dismissed us with honor, and gave us many thanks for our good conduct; and then we took up our journey for home, and lodged at Framingham.

3rd. Wed. Resumed our march, and arrived at Sutton about 9 o'clock in the evening.

SAMUEL BIXBY.

SUTTON, MASS.



